

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: June 20, 2016
Time: 6:45PM
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the head table were Chairman Flynn, Vice-Chairman Turner, and Selectman Brazie.
Present in the audience were Marj Wexler, Brian Shaw, Eileen Vining, Rich Edwards, Ananda Timpane, Helen Krancer, Susan Bachelder, Adam Chait.

This meeting is recorded for the purpose of transcribing minutes and is video recorded.

MINUTES:

The Board accepted with minor changes the minutes of June 1, 2016, June 6, 2016, June 9, 2016 and June 13, 2016.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Ananda Timpane, Railroad Street Youth Project, attended to update the Board on the progress of the grant awarded to combat substance abuse in our local youth, and to invite Town officials to participate in a World Café forum on the issue. The Café is to be held on Thursday, July 28 from 5:30pm to 7pm at the Great Barrington Senior Center. A representative from the Police, Selectmen, Health and School Departments would be appreciated. Ananda noted that the 2015 data showed that south county has a high percentage of abusers of alcohol, marijuana and opiates and that has been consistent since 2006. She did note that both the South County School Districts outshine other school districts in providing protectiveness but family is not. Ananda said she would send the data from the 2015 study.

Police Chief Brian Shaw agreed to an actual retirement date of July 15. He noted that the Berkshire County Law Enforcement Council is very supportive and will gladly help in our transition. Both Sheffield and West Stockbridge have offered their Chief for support as well. Chief Shaw reported that mutual aid with Great Barrington and Sheffield is working very smoothly. In regards to sharing of a police chief with another Town, Chief Shaw expressed concern over the ability to deal with the different policies in each town, the different Unions, the difference in needs and styles. Chief Shaw reported that Officer Kemp is doing well in the full-time academy. Officer Kemp is getting good grades, has a positive mind set and is enjoying it. Chief Shaw reported that he has some ongoing computer issues that he will make note of for repair after July 1. He said he has been having difficulties filling shifts and that officers are doing a lot of details. He said he would have one room upstairs empty before he leaves. He report that his FY 2016 budget was going to be very close.

Helen Krancer, Planning Board Chair, asked the Board to return for public hearing the proposed three district bylaw amendments. The Board after debate voted two in favor and one opposed to move the bylaw forward for hearing but not necessarily for town meeting as the board was concerned that there was no town support for these amendments.

Susan Bachelder updated the Board on the status of the parking at the Appalachian Trail Council center on Route 41. The parties have agreed to place the parking in the area that Mrs. Kellog designated when she gifted the property. Susan also reported that the Town has no standing in changes being made to the preservation restriction.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Bike-N-Fly event on August 20, 2016.

The Board unanimously appointed Town Officials as per the attached list.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board approved a year end transfer in the amount of \$469.75 from the Schools Operating Budget to the Schools Capital Budget.

The Board approved upgrades to French Park by the Committee that include replacing the burning bushes at the memorial stone and purchasing a new sign for the park entry. The Board will ask the Committee too look at the Tennis Courts for future repairs. The Board also approved the request of Bill Bodinger to plant a tree in the dog park. He will be asked to make sure the tree is taken care of. Concern was expressed over the lack of upkeep on the ball field which are no longer used regularly.

FOLLOW UPS:

The Town has been awarded \$50,000 by the Mass Historical Commission for the repairs to the South Egremont School House. It has been unofficially reported that the School Committee is unhappy about the preliminary discussion that took place about moving the South Egremont students to another location in Egremont for a short time when the foundation reconstruction begins on the school. The Board has invited the School Superintendent and the School Committee to its meeting on July 11 to discuss this. At that time we should have a clearer idea of the timetable, and some feed back on where the project stands with \$50,000 less. Susan Bachelder noted that the archeological study needs to take place before any construction begins so we could move forward with that. Selectmen Turner feels we should move forward with the bidding process.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board approved by a vote of 2 in favor with Brazie recusing the recommendation of the Compensation Committee to give raises to the exempt employees as follows:

Office Administrator Mary Brazie	4.48%
Collector Sue Funk	2.98%
Road Superintendent Tim Hosier	0%
Personnel Director Bill Tighe	2.05%
Librarian Lesliann Furcht	2.98%

Jeremia Pollard is taking a look at the issue surrounding Selectmen Flynn's retirement and the restriction that he cannot be paid by the Town.

An issue with Life Insurance for Union employees who work less than 17.5 hours per week is being looked at by MIIA and by Wheeler & Taylor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.16/jun20

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.